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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, January 3, 1996)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer: Gracious Father, in the welter of human words, our souls cry out, "Is there any word from the Lord?"

We wonder what You have to say about our present crisis. In our deepest hearts we know all too well. You call all of us to absolute honesty with You and with each other, and to mean what we say and to do what we promise. So often we speak across the cavern of contentious conflict, but do not listen to each other. You command all of us to humble ourselves and repent of the use of coercion because we have failed effectively to communicate our perception of truth or convince each other of the theories and programs we hold so dear. We meet, but sometimes there is not a meeting of minds because often our desire is to defeat those we consider to be the opposition and to rally the approval of our constituencies. Our attention to the polls keeps us poles apart. Pious attitudes mask petulant agendas.

O God, we all are accountable to You. We give up the human power struggle so that we may receive Your power to humbly move forward toward workable solutions. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, leaders' time has been reserved.

Mr. President, today we will be awaiting a possible House action on maybe one or two measures on returning Federal workers and also paying Federal workers who have not been paid.

We do not expect rollcall votes to occur during today's session. We do not know precisely what the form of the legislation will be when it comes from the House. We hope to be able to pass it by unanimous consent. So if anybody wants to object, they ought to be letting us know early because we will have to give 24-hour notice to get our colleagues back here sometime tomorrow for that vote.

I know that some indicated that they would have objected to the last UC while they were hundreds of miles away. So I want to be sure those people who may be out and around the country today understand that there may be another request for a unanimous consent, and if they wish to object, they had better hustle back here and do so.

I hope, with the House apparently trying to come together on a couple of proposals that would enable Federal workers to return to work with pay, that we would not engage in rhetoric here today that might discourage positive action by the House.

So it would be my hope that we would dwell on other matters, if necessary, and let the Senate then stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair awaiting House action. I do not think it is going to help anything if some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle find it necessary to beat up House Republicans. It will only make it more difficult, and it should make it more difficult, frankly. So I hope we can avoid that rhetoric today.

ORDER FOR RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following statements by the Senator from New Mexico, who is here, and the Senator from Virginia, that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Virginia is recognized.

SENATOR DOLE'S LEADERSHIP

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I again wish to thank the distinguished majority leader for his leadership throughout this situation. I find a ray of encouragement here that Federal workers can return to work with pay.

I want to state for the record that the majority leader has stood steadfast on seeing that Federal workers who have been furloughed, and otherwise their pay stopped, will receive this pay.

It is an obligation of the United States of America and all citizens to see that those who have contracted with our Federal Government to be gainfully employed be compensated because they are in no way—absolutely no way—at fault on this situation.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Mr. WARNER. Also, Mr. President, I wish to inform my colleagues that throughout my State, and in many other parts of the United States, this problem is now working its way by ripple effect into the private sector such that many, many gainfully employed persons in an infrastructure supporting not only the Government but other private sector support are beginning to feel most severely this situation.

This morning on television here in the Nation's Capital was a picture of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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